

Rosefield Solar Consultation

Dear Sirs,

I write to confirm my objection to this project on the following issues.

Executive Summary

Solar Farms, as generators of electricity are grossly inefficient. In the year 2025/26 solar farms contributed **6.7%** of the total UK generation of electricity. Wind contributed **33.9%**, and Fossil fuels **28%**. European interconnectors supplied **10.4%**. Moreover, the National Grid Substation at East Claydon is unable to provide a connection until it is rebuilt in the mid 2030's, so how does the applicant propose to use the generated electricity?

This proposal is not acceptable for this part of North Buckinghamshire and should be refused.

Project footprint

Solar Farms are not environmentally friendly, and it is highly unlikely that the land that they are built on could return to agriculture after 40 years or the lifespan of the equipment. At the present projected size, this project is too large to be accommodated in this rural area. We are an agricultural area not an industrial area, and the removal of food production land is unconscionable. One tenant farmer has already moved, and the future of the 2 remaining tenants, being affected by this project, means either closing their enterprise or reducing their ability to run their business economically. This project also fails to meet the stated conditions as set out in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, namely:

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Policy C3 Renewable Energy

Planning permission will normally be granted for off-site renewable energy (for example, but not confined, to wind, solar, biomass and energy crops, anaerobic digestion and landfill gas), where it has been demonstrated that all the following criteria have been met:

Para (p). There is no significant adverse effect on landscape or townscape character, ecology and wildlife, heritage assets whether designated or not, areas or features of historical significance or amenity value.

Therefore, on that basis alone this project fails to comply with the current Local Plan and should be withdrawn.

Consultation process

The consultation thus far has failed to provide sufficient and detailed information to allow residents to understand totally the **Cumulative Impact** on our Community. This Community has experienced 3 major infrastructure projects since 2015, and there are other projects being suggested. We know the cumulative effect of transporting material and how the damage to public roads is unrepaired, causes damage to our vehicles which we must repair without compensation. We also know that working hours throughout the year will need to be varied

according to daylight hours or conversely artificial lighting will be used, which will upset natural environment conditions.

There is little information or knowledge available of how work noise impacts communities.

On this matter therefore the project so far fails to meet the requirement of an adequate Consultation.

BESS Installation

The proposed installation of Lithium-Ion Batteries has only a 10-to-15-year lifespan before their efficiency reduces to point where their use is no longer economic and will need replacement. Can they be easily re-cycled?

Health and safety in grid scale electrical energy storage systems, a government guidance document, sets out many conditions which must be followed, and there must be a clear statement concerning the operation and use of BESS systems.

The Control Equipment poses many issues and challenges. An operating Battery installation is noisy and obtrusive. Moreover, they are an obvious target for terrorists which will require substantial and strong security fencing, plus 24 hours security lighting and security camera systems. The batteries also pose a significant Fire Risk which current Fire Safety Authorities are grappling with. They are housed in ugly industrial units and create a blot on the landscape.

This factor therefore should mean that this project should be stopped.

Connection to the National Grid

The local National Grid connection opportunity I understand will not be available until at least 2031, due to the installation of a new East Claydon Grid Station. Although smaller solar panel installations can utilise 11KVa connectors, this project is currently too large to facilitate that type of connection.

Therefore, this project should either be reduced in overall size or fails its own time scale.

Visual Impact

A solar installation of this size should not be seen as an attractive and a wonderful addition to our landscape. It will have a negative impact on property values as much as a 20% reduction on current values.

It will also impede the passage of wildlife species that roam our area. This has already been observed by residents by the building of East West Railway, and HS2 have had to spend significant sums of money to try to accommodate wildlife. The industrialisation of the land in this area is counter to the aims of the NPPF in its definition of allowed development.

On these factors, this project should not go forward.

Project viability

I have researched the generation ability of Solar Farms recently and observed that over the last 3 weeks Solar Farm generation has added approximately 6% to the daily generation of electricity. This poor result is clearly related to weather conditions and short-day length. Is it really viable to install this large expensive Solar Array in our changeable climate? By comparison Wind generation is providing more than 30% of the daily generation of electricity, depending on wind strength

It seems to me that this project is based on some very questionable suppositions and poor forecasting.

Conclusion

This project is wrong for this location on so many factors, and I think that the developer should think again before committing their reputation to a poorly developed project.